

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 185970  
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-03 SS-15 NSCE-00 DODE-00  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 SP-02 INRE-00 /046 R

DRAFTED BY AF/ELRPOST  
APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP

-----032650 222027Z /66

O P 222008Z JUL 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 185970

E.O. 11652: XGDS2

TAGS: PINS, PBOR, MASS, ET, SO, SA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ETHIOPIAN ATTACK ON SOMALIA

1. DAWIT'S JULY 23 LUNCHEON FOR CANADIAN AMBASSADOR DOES  
INDEED PRESENT TIMELY OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND PMGSE THAT  
ATTACKS AGAINST SOMALI TARGETS COULD BE COSTLY POLITICALLY  
TO ETHIOPIA. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO RAISE WITH DAWIT THE  
QUESTION OF THE OGADEN ALONG THE LINES GIVEN BELOW. YOU  
SHOULD OF COURSE AVOID REVEALING KNOWLEDGE OF ETHIOPIAN  
MILITARY PLANS. YOU SHOULD NOT REPEAT NOT RAISE THE  
POSSIBLE U.S. MILITARY SURVEY TEAM TO SOMALIA CONCERNING  
WHICH WE WISH TO RETAIN FULL FLEXIBILITY.

2. YOUR TALKING POINTS:  
-- USG HAS LONG REGRETTED THE ENMITY BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND  
SOMALIA OVER THE OGADEN WHICH HAS PREVENTED THESE TWO  
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NEIGHBORS, WITH BOTH OF WHOM WE WISH TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELA-  
TIONS, FROM LIVING IN PEACE AND WORKING TOGETHER COOPERA-  
TIVELY FOR THE MUTUAL BENEFIT OF THEIR TWO PEOPLES.

-- WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT THE MEANS CAN BE FOUND FOR A  
RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM ON A BASIS ACCEPTABLE MUTUALLY.  
WE HAVE HOPED THAT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "NATIONALITIES"

PORTION OF THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTIONARY PROGRAM MIGHT

PROVIDE SUCH A BASIS.

-- WE APPRECIATE THAT ETHIOPIA HAS GROUNDS TO FEEL THAT IT IS THE AGGRIEVED PARTY. NOT ONLY WAS IT THE OBJECT OF AN INVASION LAST JULY, BUT IT CONTINUES TO SUFFER FROM INSURGENT VIOLENCE.

-- ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL U.S. OBJECTIVES IN PURSUING A NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH SOMALIA IS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A POSITION FROM WHICH WE CAN INFLUENCE SOMALIA TO LIVE AT PEACE WITH ITS NEIGHBORS. WE AND OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES HAVE BEEN PRESSING THE SOMALI GOVERNMENT TO RESPECT THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ITS NEIGHBORS, AND WE DEPLORE SOMALI STATEMENTS (SUCH AS AT KHARTOUM) OF SUPPORT FOR INSURGENT FORCES.

-- ETHIOPIA'S FORBEARANCE IN REFRAINING FROM CROSSING THE BORDER INTO SOMALIA LAST MARCH HAS GAINED BROAD INTERNATIONAL APPROVAL. THAT STATESMANLIKE RESTRAINT REINFORCED THE MORAL AND DIPLOMATIC ADVANTAGE WHICH ETHIOPIA ALREADY ENJOYED BECAUSE OF ITS DEFENSE OF THE PRINCIPLE OF TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY.

-- WE RECOGNIZE THAT CONTINUED INSURGENT VIOLENCE IN THE  
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OGADEN MUST SEVERELY STRAIN ETHIOPIAN PATIENCE. HOWEVER, WE WOULD URGE THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT NOT TO GIVE UP THE DIPLOMATIC HIGH GROUND IT NOW ENJOYS BY LANUCHING RETALIATORY INCURSIONS ACROSS THE BORDER. INTERNATIONAL REACTION TO ETHIOPIA'S AIR STRIKES INSIDE SOMALIA HAS SO FAR BEEN MUTED, BUT THIS COULD CHANGE IF ETHIOPIAN RETALIATIONS CONTINUE AND PARTICULARLY IF THEY TAKE MORE SUBSTANTIAL FORM. VANCE

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY:IO/UNA:BJSHARP

APPROVED BY:IO/UNA:JFTEFFT

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O 242358Z JUL 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE 8822

S E C R E T STATE 185970

FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 185970 ACTION ADDIS ABABA INFO  
ROME JIDDA MOGADISCIO NAIROBI 22 JUL.

QUOTE: S E C R E T STATE 185970

E.O. 11652: XGDS2

TAGS: PINS, PBOR, MASS, ET, SO, SA

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ETHIOPIAN ATTACK ON SOMALIA

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UNQUOTE VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINS, PBOR, MASS, ET, SO, SA  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014